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Ford Executive Target of Terrorist Attack in Argentina
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Ford Executive Target of Terrorist Attack in Argentina

On 23 October terrorists attempted to abduct Eduardo J. Johnes, the director of labor relations at Transax, a Ford subsidiary in Cordoba, Argentina. The abduction attempt occurred as Johnes was returning to his suburban home. The attempt was foiled by Johnes' bodyguards who drove off the terrorists after a violent shootout. Johnes escaped unharmed. During the past two years, Transax has been the target of several kidnapping and extortion attempts including the 22 November murder of John Swint, the Transax General Manager, by the Peronist Armed Forces (FAP).

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Collaborator with Argentine Montoneros Trained by Fedayeen

Following his arrest by Argentine police in late September, Ismael Jacinto Haiek admitted that he had received guerrilla warfare training in 1969-70 at a Palestinian camp. Haiek, an Argentine of Lebanese extraction, was arrested because of his collaboration with the Montoneros, a now illegal leftist Peronist organization that has been involved in terrorism, including some attacks on foreign targets. (A detailed background article on the Montoneros appeared in the 25 September 1974 issue.)

Haiek told the police that he received the training from the Palestine Liberation Organization. However, as the PLO is a political organization not directly involved in guerrilla activities, the training camp probably was sponsored by one of the PLO-member fedayeen organizations, perhaps Fatah. Haiek said a principal reason for the training was to acquire Palestinian guerrilla warfare training materials for the Montoneros. He took numerous photos of training techniques, weapons and demolition devices. He did not elaborate on the type of training he received but did mention that Communist Chinese assisted in the technical instruction. Haiek had photos of himself with Fatah chief Yasir Arafat and George Habbash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

At Haiek's home police discovered powerful radio intercept equipment which he used to monitor international telephone calls. He claimed to have passed recordings of these communications to an unidentified contact in the Lebanese Embassy in Buenos Aires. He also intercepted local police and military communications on behalf of the Montoneros. In addition, he had equipment for printing Patria Barbara, a Montonero clandestine publication. Haiek named another Montonero of Arab descent who is now participating in Palestinian activity in the Middle East. Haiek has been working as a journalist, and has contributed to the publications Arab Question and The Voice of Palestine. He also has been in the pay of the Lebanese Embassy's press attache, assisting with the Arab League's propaganda mechanism. Haiek did not reveal the extent or type of assistance--if any--that fedayeen organizations are providing to the Montoneros or other Argentine extremist groups at present.

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Meeting of the Revolutionary Coordinating Junta in Argentina

In late September, , the Revolutionary Coordinating Junta (JCR) held a meeting in Tucuman, Argentina. The organizations represented were the Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), the Argentine People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), the Bolivian National Liberation Army (ELN), the Uruguayan Tupamaros, and the Peruvian MIR. The purpose was to divide funds obtained by the ERP from kidnapping and extortion, and to discuss the general strategy for armed struggle in the southern cone of South America. (The organization and activities of the JCR were described in the issues of 20 February, 9 October and 3 December 1974.) 3.3(b)(1)

Also attending the meeting was Jorge Insunza, a Chilean Communist leader who has been cooperating with the MIR and who, according to the Chilean press, has been acting as a financial courier between the MIR and the Argentine ERP. The Chilean Communist Party officially disapproves of this collaboration with the extremist MIR, fearing that it will damage the party's policy of nonviolence and will bring on massive government persecution. Chilean officials who have recently interrogated captured MIR members confirmed that Insunza brought about US $100,000 from Argentina to the MIR, and that the ERP and Montoneros are assisting the MIR with guerrilla training in Argentina.

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